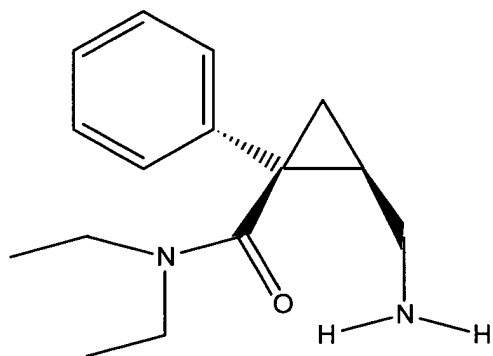


We claim:

1. A method of treating or preventing atypical depression secondary to pain (DSP) in an individual suffering from DSP or at risk thereof, the method comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of a dual norepinephrine serotonin reuptake inhibitor (NSRI) or triple reuptake inhibitor (TRI) to alleviate or prevent at least one symptom of atypical depression.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the selective NSRI has an NE : 5-HT reuptake inhibition ratio of about 1 : 1 to about 50:1.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the selective NSRI has an NE : 5-HT reuptake inhibition ratio of about 1 : 1 to about 20:1.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selective norepinephrine (NE) - serotonin (5-HT) reuptake inhibitor (NSRI) is milnacipran:



or stereoisomeric forms, mixtures of stereoisomeric forms, metabolites, derivatives, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the milnacipran is administered at a dosage of between 100 and 400 mg/day.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein the milnacipran is administered at a dosage of between 100 and 250 mg/day.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is administered two or more times per day.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the NSRI has NMDA receptor antagonist properties.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the selective norepinephrine (NE) - serotonin (5-HT) reuptake inhibitor (NSRI) does not substantially increase the risk of seizures.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the selective norepinephrine (NE) - serotonin (5-HT) reuptake inhibitor (NSRI) comprises at least two of milnacipran, sibutramine, and an aminocyclopropane derivative.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is a triple reuptake inhibitor blocking uptake of serotonin, noradrenaline, and dopamine.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the DSP comprises atypical depression and either chronic pain or neuropathic pain.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the DSP comprises chronic pain selected from the group consisting of lower back pain, atypical chest pain, headache, pelvic pain, myofascial face pain, abdominal pain, neck pain and chronic pain caused by a disease or condition.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein the DSP comprises atypical depression characterized by mood reactivity and neurovegetative symptoms present for more than about two weeks.
15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective anti-DSP amount of a dual serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor or triple reuptake inhibitor to alleviate or prevent one or more of the symptoms characteristic of atypical depression.
16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 comprising milnacipran in a formulation delivering between 100 and 400 mg/day.
17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 comprising a reuptake inhibitor in a dosage greater than the dosage required to treat typical depression or pain.
18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 comprising at least two of milnacipran, sibutramine, and an aminocyclopropane derivative.